

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00142 030911Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 030636Z FEB 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2777

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0142

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ AND THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

1. US VETO OF SECURITY COUNCIL DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIANS
CREATED LITTLE APPARENT COMMOTION IN BAGHDAD. PRIOR TO VOTE, PRESS
HAD CARRIED STORIES ON USG'S INTENT TO VETO AND ACTUAL VOTE WAS
SOMETHING OF AN ANTI-CLIMASM GOI HAS TAKEN A HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE
TOWARDS ALL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT,
AND THEYHXAN NOW POINT TO FAILURE OF UNSC RESOLUTION AS CONFIR-

MATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THEIR POSITION THAT SUCH
EFFORTS WILL LEAD TO NO USEFUL RESULT.

2. AT SAME TIME US VETO WILL STRENGTHEN BELIEF OF IRAQI
LEADERSHIP THAT USG IS HOPELESSLY ONE-SIDED ON ARAB-ISRAEL
CONFLICT AND TOTALLY INSENSITIVE TO PALESTINIAN CONCERNS. IT
WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN HANDS OF THOSE WITHIN GOI WHO OPPOSE ANY
BROADENING OF EXISTING POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GOI AND US M

3. I HAVE CONVEYED TEXT OF OUR EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY, BUT I DOUBT THAT IT WILL HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON IRAQI
LEADERSHIP SINCE THEY DO NOTNUHARE OUR PREMISE THAT A NEGOTIATED

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SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338

IS A GOOD THING. FOR THE SAME REASON, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO
MAKE SUCH IMPRESSION ON IRAQIS WITH ARGUMENT THAT USG MUST SHOW
CONCERN FOR ISRAELI POSITIONS AND ATTITUDES IN ORDER TO RETAIN
USG EFFECTIVENESS AS MIDDLEMAN.

4. AT SAME TIME, I BELIEVE IRAQIS, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL NOT ADMIT
IT, WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY WITH A PEACEFUL AND STABLE MIDDLE EAST
THAT WOULD GIVEN THEM A CHANCE TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANNED
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. WE SHOULD THEREFORE
KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED OF OUR PEACE-SEEKING EFFORTS BUT, AT
THE SAME TIME, AVOID PLACING THEM IN A POSITION WHERE THEY MUST
TAKE AHETAND OF THEIR OWN. IF PUSHED, THEY WOULD PROBABLY WORK
AGAINST US. IF LEFT ALONE, THEY MAY STAND ASIDE
WILEY

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NNN

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